(b) There is no proposal for Tata-Singapore Airlines.

Indian Airlines services from Guwahati to Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai

2910. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for introduction of new Indian Airlines flights on Guwahati-Delhi-Guwahati sector and Guwahati-Mumbai-Guwahati and Chennai-Guwahati sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) Indian Airlines operates 5 services per week on Delhi/Guwahati route. Convenient connections are available daily from Calcutta for Mumabai and Chennai, in both the directions for passengers travelling between Guwahati Mumbai and Guwahati/Chennai. At present Indian Airlines has no proposal to introduce services from Guwahati to Mumbai and Chennai.

Reduction in Sales Tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel

2911. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has requested State Governments to reduce sales tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) as a measure to reduce financial burden on domestic airlines; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reply has been received from 8 State Governments and one Union Territory Administration. While Nagaland Government has no objection to abolish sales tax on ATF, Maharashtra Government has exempted all the domestic airlines from payments of sales tax on ATF for operating to places other than Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur and Aurangabad in that State for the period 1.6.1996 to 31.5.2001 and Span Avivation (M) pvt. Ltd. for operating to any place in the State other than Mumbai for the period 1.4.1997 to 31.3.2002. The other six State Governments/UT Admn. have not agreed to abolish sales tax on ATF. Reply from the remaining State Governments/UT Admn. has not been received so far.

Diversion of flights to Ahmedabad Airport

2912. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMBANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian airlines has decided to divert some more flights to Ahmedabad airport; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether there is any plan to develop Surat and Baroda airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Surat airport belongs to the State Government Vadodara (Baroda) airport has recently been expanded and modernised as a model airport at a cost of Rs. 18 crores.

Upgradation of Umroi Airport (Shillong)

2913. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the long outstanding demand of the people of Meghalaya for upgradation of the Umroi Airport near Shillong;